1. **Course Description:** Old Testament History, Literature and Theology examines Old Testament history and teaching against the cultural, geographical, historical and literary backgrounds of the Ancient Near East. Archaeology, comparative history and literature as well as key theological themes underlying the New Testament and Western culture are explored as well as the application of these texts as a foundation of personal spirituality.

2. **Course Goals:** When you have successfully completed this course you will:

   G1: Recall the basic content of the Old Testament (OT)
   G2: Comprehend the origin and transmission of the OT text
   G3: Comprehend OT cultural issues and their relevance to post-modern culture
   G4: Analyze, interpret and apply the meaning of OT texts from multiple perspectives
   G5: Critically evaluate and integrate your thinking with current OT research and discoveries
   G6: Distill, formulate and integrate your view of God and His kingdom based on the insights derived from the OT
   G7: Comprehend and discern OT culture and moral constructs being able to separate between descriptive and prescriptive aspects of the OT
   G8: Share a commitment to caring for the creation, environment and see connections with the liberal arts disciplines as part of your religious heritage and commitment
   G9: Be able to express your understanding of texts of the Old Testament utilizing the potential of new media computer screen rather than mere static text on a page

3. **OBJECTIVES of OT History and Literature class:**

   **Cognitive Objectives:** You will understand
   CO1. the basic historical framework
   CO2. the factual details and stories
   CO3. the process of how the Old Testament came to us
   CO4. the customs and cultural issues manifested in the OT
   CO5. the meaning and implications of the Old Testament stories
CO6. God's character (mercy, justice, love, anger) and actions (covenant, war, shalom, forgiveness, retribution, redemption, et al.)
CO7. theological reasons for the care of creation and human life
CO8. the different stages of faith and spiritual formation

**Affective Objectives:** You will appreciate
AO1. the value of the Old Testament
AO2. the greatness of God and human responsibility in response in terms of holiness, pursuit of personal justice and mercy
AO3. God's use of and interaction with human culture
AO4. the value of the various disciplines of the liberal arts as supported by the OT

**Skill Objectives:** You will be able to
SO1. identify major themes, genres and styles
SO2. apply the meaning and significance of the Old Testament stories to life within postmodern culture
SO3. critically evaluate interpretive options of some of the major “difficult” passages in the Old Testament
SO4. ask big questions (the meaning of life, death, suffering, happiness, choice, etc.) of the text and then pursue answers
SO5. express OT concepts in new media formats

4. **Textbooks**

**One item to purchase:**
1) Bible in an accurate translation (NIV, NLT, NRSV, NASB, KJV, ESV, NKJV, NAB, Net Bible are all good choices; I have prepared a DASV Digital American Standard Version which is available in text and audio on the web site; the mp3 audio is useful; there is also a format there that has the text and audio together where the audio will reinforce your text reading). The “Wave Bible” and “Your Bible” (by Hobby Lobby) are interesting free phone apps that might be of interest. If you find others that are decent let me know.

For the Old Testament in Chinese, Korean or Portuguese, Spanish, etc. I recommend: [http://www.wordproject.org/bibles/parallel/chinese/index.htm](http://www.wordproject.org/bibles/parallel/chinese/index.htm)
Your Bible also has multiple languages and audio reading options

2) **Digital resources:** The Online Syllabus may have some changes as we work through this semester. The Online is always the one to follow over this printed beginning-of-the-year
hardcopy.
1) All of the resources will be made available online course **PowerPoints, full video/audio and text** from this semester in Blackboard. The professor is seeking to limit the cost for textbooks by constructing a web site that will make substantial OT resources available to students online. The point is to harness Internet technology for the benefit of our learning environment. This is going to be a multiple year project so your patience and suggestions are requested as I attempt to build piece by piece this online resource at Gordon. Some of the benefits are that these resources are available to anyone, at any time from anywhere in the world (it also saves each you over $50 for textbooks).

2) There is an online series of “**Getting Started with _____ [Gen. Exod. Lev. Etc.]**” that will work like a textbook for this class [text/audio].

3) I have developed **multiple choice quiz questions for all of the lectures** and they are available for review in the **Interactive Video/Quiz Combo** Online resource (Flash Video formats; sorry Mac ipad/iphone folks). Since the lectures are being reformatted this semester new questions on Quizlet to replace the old interactive video questions. These will be developed as we go through the course lectures. These “lengthy lecture” interactive videos are being replaced by a new Panopto video set on Blackboard, if all goes well. The questions will be built in Quizlet.com as we with links to them for the weeks of the exams as we progress through the semester.

4) **OT Lit Multiple Choice Bible Quizzer online:** Practice sets of questions over the material you will be reading in the Bible. This will be very helpful in preparing for the quizzes.

5) **Get Lost in Jerusalem Virtual Reality** by Ted Hildebrandt originally published by Zondervan (is available online at the web site; Zondervan sold this for $29.95).

6) **www.Quizlet.com** houses both weekly quiz questions and also lecture questions for exams. Many find this format very effective for learning.
Web Site URL: For this course you need to consult the web [just Google "Ted Hildebrandt" look for Gordon College or use this URL [bookmark it]: http://faculty.gordon.edu/hu/bi/ted_hildebrandt/index.cfm

The web site will also facilitate your exploration of topics beyond this course and beyond the walls of Gordon after you graduate. The online materials are also available to your friends and family if others want to see what you are learning. The readings including the DASV [Digital American Standard Version] of OT itself are available in multiple formats (*.doc, *.html, *.pdf) as well as audio for virtually all the readings (*.mp3). There are audio and text/audio combinations so you can download it and listen to the text on your iPods, iPads or mobile devices.

Blackboard will only be used for posting grades and perhaps this year’s videos/audio.

All students taking the course are required to purchase these online course materials for $20 cash. Please pay for them during the first week or so. If payment is received after Friday Feb. 3 the price goes up to $40 and no quizzes or exams will be accepted or make-ups allowed after Friday Feb 3 is passed if payment has not been received. In short, get your $20 in before Feb. 3 as I don’t want to have to chase you down especially when I’m trying to save each of you well over $50 per student [compare how much it is for textbooks in your other classes].

I do not make anything personally from this as the funds are used to develop the more supplemental materials for the OT/NT courses.

4. Grade Points:
   A. Attendance policy: Students are expected to attend class sessions. The discussions in class are an essential part of your learning (character and habits of life matter). Attendance will be taken. You will be allowed 3 absences, over that points will be deducted from your attendance score unless you have written excused absences (sports, sickness etc.; see form at the end of this syllabus). You are responsible to find the attendance sheet and get your name on it for each class. 4-5 absences deducts 1%; 6-7=2%; 8-9=3%; 10-11=4%; and 11-12=5%. Participation will be built off responses given in class when we summarize and evaluate at the end of each 10 minute segment of the new segmented or mini-lectures.
B. **Quizzes:** The quizzes focus on the actual content of the Bible reading, memory verses and supplemental reading (exams will be over the lectures—Use the [OT Lit Bible Quizzer](#) as much of the quiz will be pulled from the questions found in that quizzer). All quizzes should be taken on time.

**Missed quizzes** will be assessed as to whether they are excused or unexcused. Unexcused absences will result in an automatic deduction of 20% for that quiz. Both excused and unexcused absences must be made up within one week from when the quiz was originally given. If a student gets to class late after the quiz has begun, the quiz must be made up within the next week as either excused or unexcused. You are not allowed to use electronic devices of any sort for the quizzes. Open head closed phone, pod, pad, tablet, or laptop etc.

C. **EXAMS:** All exams must be taken on time. Exams will be over the lecture material. Exams are not like quizzes. The exams will be built off the questions in the interactive video/quiz combos. I am also trying to load these questions on “Quizlet.com” which will offer an alternative way of learning them.

For exams no electronic devices will be permitted in the room so leave your cell phones, ipads, iphones whatever at home for the time of the exam.

D. **Google Earth Pro project:** You will break into groups, select a leader, pick a location and biblical story that happened at that location. You will then develop a Google Earth Pro fly into that site and discover a series of pictures of your site. You will then write a historical fiction (ca 400-500 words). You will then take your own pictures to support your storyline and combine your fly into site video with the pictures and an audio narration of your story with the pictures of the site and the pictures you have taken into a video and put it up on YouTube.com for class viewing. We will develop this project over the semester.

**Cheating Policy:** Cheating in any form will result in an automatic failure of the entire course.
5. Integrity and Classroom Etiquette

This is a large class and because of abuses in the past I am declaring this a digitally free zone (no computers, pads, or cell phones). It has been shown that students who take hand written notes in class actually learn better. Computers/phones have a tendency to distract both the user and those sitting around them. This kills me as I am really into the digital mediums but it just hasn’t worked out with students in live classes over the last couple years. My apologies. If you must have use of these devices for academic purposes the front two rows will be reserved for those special exceptions.

This is a class in biblical studies. Integrity is at the heart of what is being learned. Thus any cheating or plagiarism will result in an automatic failure of the whole course. If you are unclear what falls into the category of plagiarism check in the Student Handbook pp 8f. Gaming, surfing, texting, email reading/sending, tweeting, IM, YouTube, Facebook, etc. in the classroom are rude, distracting to others and unacceptable. Be wise. Here are a few comments on classroom etiquette. Class times are learning times for discussion, taking notes and interacting. The following activities are inappropriate inside the classroom context: talking to others outside of the class discussion flow, whispering, sleeping, hand-holding, touching and massaging another, un-civil comments or behaviors not conducive to the learning environment. Basically anything that is disruptive to the classroom instructional environment is not kosher. Students engaged in these activities will be asked to leave the classroom and must talk to the professor in person before being readmitted.

Gordon workload statement: For each semester hour of credit, students should expect to spend a minimum of 2-3 hours per week outside of class in engaged academic time. This time includes reading, writing, studying, completing assignments, lab work, or group projects, among other activities.

6. Extra Credit may be received (up to 5 points) by:

Extra credit projects may be earned: (up to 5%) email or talk with me to set this up. [Due by May 8]. The filling of new requests for such extra credit will cease on May 4th.

1) This semester we will be working on finishing the transcribing the The Bible in 5 presentations series. What this amounts to is transcribing those lectures (2 presentations = 5% [usually takes 5-7
hours]. There are also full lectures on Psalms and Ezekiel that will go at about 1 hour lecture to transcribe (5%). Talk to me as I’ll need to set it up online for you. These will need to be word perfect and sign at the end affirming their accuracy.

Once the transcription process is completed we can work on putting section titles and timings (10-18 per lecture) for the various lectures online (talk to the prof. about which ones need doing).

If you are into graphic design and would like to do something along the lines of crafting a psalm visually, etc. (reformatting our website to make it look more visually and useable) please talk to me early in the semester.

If you’re a Computer Sci. person and want to play with fly thru’s of Israel using Google Earth Pro tells talk. I’m also interested in developing games that teach OT content if you have any ideas and want to pursue development. If you want to explore Unity 3D [C# programming] and VR or Kolor PanoTour Pro (GoPro) or Engage VR by Immersive VR Education. One can also survey the VR space looking at Lecture VR, Altspace VR, ZSpace, InstaVR and Immersive VR Education, Unimers and others to see what is going to be the best development platform to use in the future. Let me know as there are several things we can explore in that realm.

Another path would be to develop your own fill-in-the-blank questions for Gen. Ex., Numbers, Deut. or Joshua, Judges/Ruth. Talk to me if you’d like to pursue this option.

If you speak a foreign language fluently (Chinese, Portuguese, Spanish, Korean, Japanese) you could work on translation projects translating the class PowerPoints or some of the transcriptions.

If you get in trouble grade-wise in this course use extra to bail yourself out. If you’re willing to work you can get the grade.

Extra credit is due by mid-night Monday May 8—plan ahead – late work on this will not be accepted. Hard deadline. No EC requests will be accepted after May 4.

7. Students with Disabilities: Students with disabilities who need academic accommodations must speak to professor and also inform him in writing regarding the nature of the disability and the request for specific
accommodations within the first two weeks of class. Ann Seavey from the Academic Support Center must be made aware of and approve in writing the accommodations requested. Students are also responsible for making sure documentation of the disability is on file in the Academic Support Center. See Ann Seavey, Jenks 412 Ext 4746. Failure to register in time with the Professor and have the ASC approve the desired accommodations will compromise our ability to provide the desired accommodations.

8. Honors option: If a student receives over a 93 on the first exam and has maintained a 90 or better quiz average, s/he may request the honors option. The student will work on a project with the prof. related to the OT Web site, fitted to their interests, skills and possible options. Often 2 lectures are transcribed and/or titling and timing lectures can be done. This project will replace the final exam hereby easing your finals week preparations. Your final exam score will be an average of your first and second exam. Talk to me if you’d like to do this option after you’ve taken the first exam. We also may be developing a series of fill-in the blank question sets for Gen. – Deut. As another option. This option must be requested no later than one week following the second exam.

9. Tentative Evaluation Percentages: generally I begin my curve with the following and then curve from there.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Grade</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>100-90</td>
<td>A/A-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>89-80</td>
<td>B+-B-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>79-70</td>
<td>C+-C-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>69-65</td>
<td>D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>65-0</td>
<td>F</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Quizzes 30% [Generally quizzes every Thurs.]
3 Exams 50%
Google Earth Pro Project 10%
Class attendance and Participation 10%

10. Assignment: Google Earth Pro Historical Fiction Project

1. Form Groups the first week of class
   Download and install the free Google Earth Pro Program https://www.google.com/earth/download/gep/agree.html

2. What town and biblical story/stories took place at your site in Israel? Select town and story
   Locate the town in Google Earth
   Locate the biblical stories that took place at that site
   [e.g. Hebron, Bethel, Jerusalem, Jericho, Megiddo, Gath, Shechem, Shiloh, Beersheba,
Mt. Sinai, etc.]

3. Turn your Google Earth Pro fly over into a video to introduce your story

4. Do background research writing a historical fiction built off one of the biblical stories.

   Research: Commentaries on your biblical story (use the best ones; vid. Library reference room “BS” section on the wall across from the Bistro

   Bible Commentaries: Look up the biblical passage you are building your story off of
   1) Word Biblical Commentary [BS 491.2. W66]
   2) NIV Application Commentary [BS 491.2 N58]
   3) New American Commentary [BS 491.2 N43]
   4) New Interpreter’s Bible [BS 491.2 N484]

   Bible Dictionaries and Encyclopedias: good for cities, sites and customs
   1) Encyclopedia of the Archaeological Excavations in the Holy Land [DS 111. S785]
   2) Anchor Bible Dictionary [BS 440.A54]
   4) The Illustrated Bible Dictionary [BS 440. I44]
   6) Encyclopedia Judaica [DS 102.8 .E496]

   NT:
   2) Baker Exegetical Commentary [BS 2346.2. B35]

5. Develop your story: plot, characters, scene, intersection with the biblical narrative, interesting, inspiring, compelling, professional, spiritual formative and integrate the research you did (ca. 400-500 words).

6. Do a fly in tour to your site in Google Earth Pro and pick up pictures of that site on the Internet from Google Earth pictures and especially:
   Dr. Carl Rasmussen’s site: http://www.holylandphotos.org/
   Any of Dr. Rasmussen’s pictures can be used with the citation:
   "Image(s) courtesy of www.HolyLandPhotos.org" by Dr. Carl Rasmussen
   See if you can get 3-10 pictures of your site from the land.
   Take 6-10 pictures of your own in support of your storyline (use artistry not just snapshots)

6. Use Windows Movie Maker (PC) or iMovie or something like that to put your story together and export it as a movie. Put out the final project as an mp4 video.

7. Prepare your project and upload on Youtube.com

Schedule for the Historical Fiction and its presentation:

1) Form group, pick a town and biblical text story Jan. 31 (Tues.)
2) Develop a fly into your site using Google Earth Pro Feb 28 (Tues.)
3) Do your research on your site and story [commentaries and dictionaries]
   Due: March 7 (Tues.). Notes turned in citing sources and ideas
4) Develop the text of your historical fiction: March 21 and get supporting pictures
5) Narrate the audio of your story, synch it with your fly to video and pictures into a video using Movie Maker or iMovie April 25 (Tues.).
6) Put it up on Youtube.com for class presentation on May 2 (Tues.).
How to learn: Google Earth Pro Tutorials on Youtube.com

Movie Making with Google Earth Pro : 13:01
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LV-6Qn8Um-I&index=2&list=PLnNXzYjQerJii1DRd4CpE6UGruhy5jnZz&t=47s

Producing Google Earth Movies: 8:11 min.
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LV-6Qn8Um-I&index=2&list=PLnNXzYjQerJii1DRd4CpE6UGruhy5jnZz&t=47s

Google Earth Tours: Tutorial: 8:25 min.
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h4Ru0xyb-um&index=3&list=PLnNXzYjQerJii1DRd4CpE6UGruhy5jnZz&t=48s

Creating Virtual Tours in Google Earth: 14:55 min.
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jQvrB5aRV_Q&index=4&list=PLnNXzYjQerJii1DRd4CpE6UGruhy5jnZz&t=38s

Google Earth Basics 2016 Tutorial: 15:45 min.
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kIK27I3unng&index=7&list=PLnNXzYjQerJii1DRd4CpE6UGruhy5jnZz&t=66s

Learn Google Earth: Recording a Tour: 3:12 min.
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iuz6P2ftWB0&index=8&list=PLnNXzYjQerJii1DRd4CpE6UGruhy5jnZz&t=71s
Group Leader's Project Evaluation Sheet

Site Chosen: _____________________________________

Title of your story: _____________________________________

Group Leader: _____________________________________

**Member Name:** _____________________________________

Evaluation: 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

**Member Name:** _____________________________________

Evaluation: 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

**Member Name:** _____________________________________

Evaluation: 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

**Member Name:** _____________________________________

Evaluation: 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

**Member Name:** _____________________________________

Evaluation: 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

**Member Name:** _____________________________________

Evaluation: 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

**Member Name:** _____________________________________

Evaluation: 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

**Member Name:** _____________________________________

Evaluation: 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

Signature of group leader: ______________________________
Course Requirements Summary:

**Weekly Quizzes:** will be over the stories from the biblical text, the reading of the various online articles and memory work. Use the OT Lit quizzer to prepare on the Bible content.

**Exams:** will be over the class discussions/notes and memory verses. Use the interactive video/quiz combo to pick up the questions which will appear on the exams.

**Projects:** Historical fiction and Google Fly To

Class attendance + Participation

Tentative Assignment Schedule is available online: Class instructions may modify these as we proceed through the material.

Final Exam Schedule:

For T/R 3:00 class [BCM101] Final will be on May 16 Tues 2:30-4:30. All Finals must be taken at the time scheduled by the registrar—no exceptions. Make your flight plans accordingly.
Genesis Bible-robics

Creation days,
   Adam and Eve-n
Garden of Eden,
   but just for a season
Serpent and Sin
   Cain kills him
Noah and the Flood
   Drunk and no bud
Babel’s tower
   Languages flower

Abram leaves Ur
   Sarah lies for sir
God’s promise,
   land, seed and blessing
Abram’s faith,
   he’s now confessing
Sodom and Gomorrah
   are no more-ah
Hagar’s the surrogate
   Ishmael barely gets
Isaac’s offered up
   God’s ram’s fired up

Jacob’s birthright
   Jacob’s ladder
Jacob’s chosen
   that’s all that matters
Jacob wrestles God at Peniel
   Gets 12 tribes -- Israel

Joseph’s coated
   Sold to Egypt,
      then promoted
Joseph’s in prison
   Interprets dreams,
      To royalty he’s risen
Brothers to Egypt begging
   Evil to good
      – God’s blessing
Exodus Bible-robics

Moses floats
to Pharaoh’s side
Kills and flees
to Sinai-ide

Yahweh’s bush
burns with fire
Moses claims
he can’t inspire

Stick to snake
Nile to blood
Firstborn die
no Passover blood

Red Sea splits
shows God's glory
Chariots sink,
Sing that story!

Water from rock
Manna on the lands
10 commandments
BIG LC SPAMS

Israel to Sinai
Golden calf’s busted
Glory cloud to desert
Tabernacle’s constructed

BIG LC SPAMS—Ten Commandments
No Blasphemy, Idols, other gods; [BIG]
No Lying, Coveting [LC]
No Stealing; Honor Parents, Adultery, Murder, Sabbath [SPAMS]
Framework of the Old Testament (10+1)

**P-PEW C-JU D-ERA**

**Primeval History:**
Adam and Eve, Noah and the flood, Babel

**Patriarchs:**
Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and Joseph

**Exodus:**
Pharaoh and the Plagues, Moses and the Sea

**Wilderness:**
Covenant at Sinai, Tabernacle, manna

**Conquest:**
Joshua Jericho, divides the tribes

**Judges:**
Deborah/Barah, Gideon, Jephthah and Samson

**United monarchy:**
Kings Saul, David, Solomon, 40, 40, 40

**Divided Monarchy:**
Kings of the north all bad (Ahab); kings of the south few good (Uzziah, Hezekiah, Josiah), North to Assyria; Prophets versus kings

**Exile:**
Judah goes to Babylon for 70 years, temple destroyed 586 BC, Daniel, Ezekiel

**Return:**
Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther, Jerusalem walls and temple rebuilt

**Apocrypha:**
Maccabees and Antiochus Epiphanes

**5 Dates to know for the OT:**

- Abraham: 2000 B.C.
- David: 1000 B.C.
- Israel to Assyria: 722 B.C.
- Judah to Babylon: 586 B.C. –temple destroyed
- Malachi ends it: 400 B.C.
Absence from Class Form: (Due within one week of absence)

Name ___________________________________

Date of Absence: ________________

Reason for Absence:

Signature of RA/RD, Coach Doctor/nurse or coach to verify this: __________________

Your Signature __________________________      Date: ________________